



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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## **AS TEMPERATURES DROP, UTILITY ASSISTANCE NEEDS RISE** *FUNDS STILL AVAILABLE TO AID LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS*

NASHVILLE --The Tennessee Department of Human Services is working with 19 community service agencies across the state to help those less fortunate get through the cold winter months. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a utility assistance program for eligible individuals and families, who must sign up with their local agency for assistance. Priority is given to individuals with disabilities, the elderly and low income families with children under 6-years old.

"As we enter the holiday season, we are reminded that many in our communities are not always able to meet their basic needs," said DHS Commissioner Gina Lodge. "LIHEAP is there to help those eligible citizens who are struggling to pay their energy bills. Although the program used to be thought of as an emergency aid program or a summer or winter assistance program, with sign-up times limited to a few times a year, this is not the case. Citizens can and should go to their local agencies any time during the year to sign up. Assistance will be provided as long as the funds are available."

Currently, all 19 community service agencies have funding left in their budgets to assist eligible families and individuals.

LIHEAP is 100% federally funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Eligibility for LIHEAP benefits is based on established federal poverty guidelines, and documentation of household income is required. Tennesseans whose household income does not exceed 125 percent of federal poverty guidelines (that's \$25,000/year for a family of four) are potentially eligible for the program. The assistance does not go directly to the client. Instead, it is made in the form of a payment to the utility company or home energy provider. If eligible, the client could receive up to two payments a year.

More than 60,000 Tennessee families are assisted each year through the LIHEAP program.

For a list of local LIHEAP agencies where applications for utility assistance can be made, please click on the following link:

<http://state.tn.us/humanserv/adfam/liheap-agencies-05.pdf>

For more information about the Department of Human Services and its programs, please click on the following link: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv>

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37248  
615.313.4700

<b>Community Service Agency Name</b>	<b>Agency Telephone Number</b>
Blount County Community Action Agency	865-983-8411
Bradley-Cleveland Community Services Agency	423-479-4111
Chattanooga Human Services Dept.	423-757-5551
Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Action Agency	931-648-5774
Delta Human Resource Agency (serving Fayette, Tipton & Lauderdale Counties)	901-476-5226
Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. (serving Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe & Sevier Counties)	423-587-4500
East Tennessee Human Resources Agency (serving Anderson, Claiborne, Morgan, Campbell, Scott & Union Counties)	865-691-2551
Highland Rim Economic Corporation (serving Dickson, Stewart, Houston & Humphreys Counties)	931-289-4101
Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee	865-546-3500
Metropolitan Action Commission (Davidson County)	615-862-8860
Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency (serving Cheatham, Sumner, Trousdale, Rutherford, Robertson, Wilson & Williamson Counties)	615-742-1113 or 615-453-2243
Mid-East Community Action Agency (serving Loudon & Roane Counties)	865-354-0450
Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council (serving Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Henry, Lake, Gibson & Obion Counties)	731-364-3228
Shelby County Community Services Agency	901-545-4630
South Central Human Resource Agency (serving Bedford, Coffee, Giles, Lewis, Lincoln, Wayne, Franklin, Maury, Perry, Lawrence, Marshall, Hickman & Moore Counties)	931-433-7182
Southeast Tennessee Human Resource Agency (serving Bledsoe, Grundy, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea & Sequatchie Counties)	423-949-2191
Southwest Human Resource Agency (serving Chester, Decatur, Hardin, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Madison & McNairy Counties)	731-989-5111
Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (serving Cannon, Cumberland, Dekalb, Fentress, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Warren, White, Van Buren, Clay, Jackson, Macon & Smith Counties)	931-528-1127
Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency (serving Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson Unicoi, Sullivan & Washington Counties)	423-246-6180

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